

**Report to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services****13 July 2012****Relocation of 'The Pound' – Church Vale, West Bromwich****1. Summary Statement**

- 1.1 'The Pound' is a walled area located on the grass verge in between Church Vale and All Saints Way, West Bromwich.
- 1.2 The walled area is a representation of a horse pound that existed in the 1830s and was originally situated on the junction of Heath Lane and Hollyhedge Road, opposite All Saints Church, West Bromwich.
- 1.3 A resident has expressed concerns that the wall is providing a seating area for youths to congregate, drink alcohol and cause a nuisance for residents living in the vicinity. The wall is in a poor state of repair and glass and litter was present upon the original inspection.
- 1.4 It is proposed that 'The Pound' be moved and a more suitable location has been offered by David Wilson Homes at the rear of the new Churchfields housing development.
- 1.5 If approved, the costs to remove and rebuild the representation of 'The Pound' will be met by David Wilson Homes.
- 1.6 The recommendations if approved would address residents concerns, improve the street scene and help to reduce further incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 1.7 An equality impact assessment was not required as the proposals concerned legal procedures which were non-discriminatory in nature.

Further details are attached for your information

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the relocation of 'The Pound' from Church Vale to land to the rear of the new Churchfields housing development on All Saints Way, West Bromwich, be approved.

In accordance with the authority delegated to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, the following course of action has been agreed, which will be set out in the formal record of the decisions taken by the Member:

- (1) the recommendation(s) above is/are approved.
- (2) the recommendation(s) above is/are approved as now amended.
- (3) the recommendations above are not approved.

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**Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**Steve Handley**  
**Area Director - Street Scene**

Contact Officer  
Robin Weare  
Group Manager - Highways  
0845 352 1853

### **3. Strategic Resource Implications**

- 3.1 The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with moving ‘The Pound’ area. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks.
- 3.2 Based on the information provided, it is the officers’ opinion that for the significant risks that have been identified, arrangements are in place to manage and mitigate these effectively.
- 3.3 This assessment has identified there are no current “red” risks that need to be reported.
- 3.4 Re-locating ‘The Pound’ would reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour near to residential properties, mainly encouraged by the walled area providing seating on a main thoroughfare.

- 3.5 There are no cost implications for this work as the housing developer David Wilson Homes has agreed to rebuild the wall on their land at the back of the development at their expense.

#### **4. Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **5. Implications for the Shared Partnership Priorities**

- 5.1 If implemented, the scheme would contribute to the Council's priority of a great place to live.
- 5.2 If implemented, the work would improve the street scene and contribute to the objectives for safer neighbourhoods.

#### **6 Background Details**

- 6.1 An enquiry was received in Highways Services during September 2011 requesting the walled area on the grass verge in between Church Vale and All Saints Way, West Bromwich be removed.
- 6.2 A local resident has expressed concerns about 'The Pound' becoming a seating area for youths to congregate, drink alcohol and cause a nuisance for residents living in the vicinity. 'The Pound' is situated on a main thoroughfare quite close to a row of shops in Parsonage Street which includes an off-licence.
- 6.3 Upon investigation it was found the walled area was called 'The Pound' and has significant historical meaning to local residents.
- 6.4 The walled area is a representation of a horse pound that existed in the 1830s and was originally situated on the junction of Heath Lane and Hollyhedge Road, opposite All Saints Church, West Bromwich.
- 6.5 The location of the representation of 'The Pound' has been moved twice over the years to accommodate All Saints Way dual carriageway. It has been confirmed by Sandwell's Heritage Officer 'The Pound' has not retained any of its original features or materials over the years. The wall is currently in a poor state of repair and glass and litter was present upon the original inspection.

- 6.6 As part of the consultation process for the new Churchfields Housing Development on Church Vale, West Bromwich, the developer, David Wilson Homes, agreed with the residents to carry out repair work to the existing 'Pound'.
- 6.7 Due to the enquiry being received in Highways asking for 'The Pound' to be removed, the developer was asked to hold back with the repair work.
- 6.8 A questionnaire was sent to residents on Church Vale to ask if they objected to the 'The Pound' area being removed. An additional questionnaire was posted to the resident of West Bromwich who expressed an interest for 'The Pound' area to be repaired during the consultation for the new housing development.
- 6.9 Three out of the nine residents on Church Vale agreed to 'The Pound' being removed and one resident objected to it being removed. The other five questionnaires were not returned.
- 6.10 Twenty four objections were received from other residents around the Borough and local history societies to ask for 'The Pound' area to remain. A couple of objectors also suggested it being moved to a different location, rather than being removed altogether. The suggestions made were to move it to All Saints Church or Sandwell Valley.
- 6.11 The developer, David Wilson, has now offered up space to the rear of the new housing development, suitable for 'The Pound' to be rebuilt. The area sits in between All Saints Church and Sandwell Valley.
- 6.12 Moving 'The Pound' to a new location would help resolve the problems experienced by residents of Church Vale. The proposed location for 'The Pound' to be rebuilt is situated next to a newly constructed play area and football pitches where children and youths will already be present.

## **Source Documents**

Enquiry requesting removal of The Pound.